

Amendments to the Specification:

On page 17, lines 8-24 please amend the paragraph as follows:

The smart agent then interacts with one or more standardized application programming interfaces (APIs) for accessing services in the host. The smart agent uses these APIs to communicate with the applications on the host. Examples of such APIs include those defined for digital television services by the Data Application Software Environment (DASE) group of the Advanced Television System Committee (ATSC). ~~The DASE APIs are described in greater detail at, e.g., <http://toocan.philips.research.philips.com/misc/atse/dase>.~~ It is expected that the DASE APIs will become standardized. A competing standard known as TVPAK, or Microsoft TV, also provides standardized APIs for accessing services in a DTV receiver. ~~The TVPAK standardized APIs are described in greater detail at, e.g., http://www.microsoft.com/tv/news/ne_tvpak_01.asp.~~ Of course, the techniques of the present invention can be applied to many other types of APIs, and can also utilize other types of communication protocols for interacting with the applications running on the host 54.